

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JERUSA 00763 161223Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SY-05 MCT-01
SSM-03 CCO-00 ACDA-12 NEAE-00 DOE-11 SOE-02
DOEE-00 HA-05 /101 W

-----006159 161228Z /17

Z O 161159Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 0525
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS FLASH
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 0763

FROM CHARGE TEL AVIV

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR LE IS
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: AVOIDANCE OF SYRIAN-ISRAELI AIR ENCOUNTERS

1. DURING JUST CONCLUDED MEETING WITH BEGIN, WEIZMAN AND DAYAN, WEIZMAN ASKED THAT WE DO WHATEVER POSSIBLE TO ENSURE SYRIANS UNDERSTAND THAT ISRAELI PILOTS ARE UNDER STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO AVOID ANY AERIAL ENCOUNTERS WITH SYRIAN AIRCRAFT.

2. WEIZMAN SAID HE HAD ORDERED THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE NOT TO UNDERTAKE ANY MISSIONS NORTH OF THE LITANAI RIVER. THERE ARE TWO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS BLANKET ORDER: (1) IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO FLY OCCASIONAL PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS, (2) ANY ARTILLERY OR KATYUSHA ATTACKS LAUNCHED FROM NORTH

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JERUSA 00763 161223Z

OF THE LITANI AGAINST ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS OR IDF FORCES WILL BE SUBJECT TO AERIAL BOMBARDMENT.

3. WEIZMAN PROFESSED CONCERN THAT DESPITE THESE RESTRICTIONS ON IAF OPERATIONS, GIVEN SPEEDS OF SYRIAN AND ISRAELI AIRCRAFT AND THE SHORT DISTANCES INVOLVED, THE MARGIN FOR MISCALCULATION IS PRESENT.

HE REFERRED TO REPORTS HE HAD THAT SYRIANS MIGHT BE
FLYING PATROLS OVER LEBANON, ESPECIALLY IN BEIRUT
AREA.

4. DURING COURSE OF MEETING, WEIZMAN WAS CALLED TO
THE PHONE BY MOD TO REPORT A NEAR INCIDENT BETWEEN
AN IAF AND A SYRIAN JET. WHEN HE RETURNED TO MEETING
AND REPORTED ESPIDE, HE ONCE AGAIN ASKED THAT SYRIANS
BE REASSURED ISRAELIS WISH TO AVOID ANY ENCOUNTERS OF
ANY SORT WITH SYRIAN FORCES.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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